

**Epi Update for Friday, August 16, 2019**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

**Items for this week's Epi Update include:**

- **Severe respiratory illness in patients with a history of vaping**
- **West Nile virus update**
- **Tick surveillance in Iowa**
- **In the news: Israeli flight attendant dies after contracting measles**
- **In the news: Why sexually transmitted infections can't shake their stigma**
- **In the news: Massachusetts has confirmed its first human case of EEE since 2013. What is the mosquito-borne disease?**
- **Infographic: Teachers and parents: that USB stick might be an e-cigarette**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**Severe respiratory illness in patients with a history of vaping**

Vaping refers to the practice of inhaling vapor from an e-cigarette device, which works by heating a liquid that can contain nicotine, marijuana, or other drugs. The long-term health impacts of vaping are unknown.

Several states have recently reported suspect cases of severe lung injury among patients with a history of vaping. Reported symptoms include cough, fatigue, dizziness, headache, vomiting and diarrhea, chest pain, and worsening difficulty breathing, sometimes requiring intensive care. Many cases have initially presented with a history of cough that does not respond to treatment, and have no signs of an infectious cause for their symptoms. Over the course of several days to a week, symptoms progress and cases present with worsening respiratory distress, sometimes requiring ventilator support. No specific products have been identified yet.

A potential case of severe respiratory illness in a young adult with a history of vaping (product names are unknown) has been reported in Iowa and is currently being investigated.

Healthcare providers should:

- continue to advocate that youth should not use vaping products and e-cigarettes, and adults should be informed about the dangers of such products
- ask patients who present with respiratory symptoms about vaping and e-cigarette use
- consider consultation with a pulmonologist and conduct a thorough infectious disease evaluation when treating patients with respiratory symptoms who report a history of vaping

Please report severe respiratory illness in persons with a history of vaping to IDPH at 800-362-2736 during business hours and after hours call 515-323-4360 (the Iowa State Patrol will page the on-call public health epidemiologist).

**West Nile virus update**

West Nile virus activity is increasing across Iowa. There have been three confirmed human cases of West Nile virus infection in Iowa. Non-human West Nile virus activity is also increasing with three reported equine cases and three positive mosquito pool samples.

In 2018, Iowa saw a spike in West Nile virus activity with 104 human cases and nine deaths reported. The West Nile virus season typically lasts from late summer into early fall. In 2018, the majority of cases reported their onset of symptoms from mid-August through the end of September. Please encourage patients to take steps to reduce their risk of exposure to West Nile virus through the fall.

For more information about West Nile virus, visit [www.idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness](http://www.idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness).

### **Tick surveillance in Iowa**

The new tick surveillance project in collaboration with veterinarians across the state has collected over 2,400 ticks since the beginning of April. Of the ticks that have been collected and identified, 76% were identified as the American dog tick, 13% as the Deer tick, also known as the Black-legged tick, and 10% as the Lone star tick. All three ticks are known vectors for tick-borne illnesses.

For more information on tick-borne illnesses, as well as steps to take to prevent tick bites, visit [idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness#Tick-borne%20diseases](http://idph.iowa.gov/cade/vectorborne-illness#Tick-borne%20diseases).

### **In the news: Israeli flight attendant dies after contracting measles**

[www.cnn.com/2019/08/13/health/israeli-flight-attendant-measles-death/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2019/08/13/health/israeli-flight-attendant-measles-death/index.html).

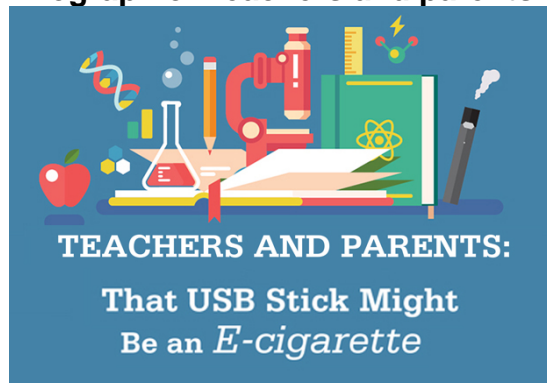
### **In the news: Why sexually transmitted infections can't shake their stigma**

[www.nytimes.com/2019/08/13/style/sti-stigma-sexual-transmitted-infections.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/13/style/sti-stigma-sexual-transmitted-infections.html).

### **In the news: Massachusetts has confirmed its first human case of EEE since 2013. What is the mosquito-borne disease?**

[www.cnn.com/2019/08/12/us/eastern-equine-encephalitis-massachusetts-trnd/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2019/08/12/us/eastern-equine-encephalitis-massachusetts-trnd/index.html).

### **Infographic: Teachers and parents: that USB stick might be an e-cigarette**



To view in full size, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/teacher-parent/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/teacher-parent/index.html).

### **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

### **Have a healthy and happy week!**

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800-362-2736